

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. The Officers' School for Armored and Mechanized Forces in Poznan
2. Miscellaneous Military Information
3. Tank Training Field at Biedrusko

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report on the Officers' School for Armored and Mechanized Forces in Poznan, miscellaneous military information and the tank training field at Biedrusko (N52-33, E16-57). Attached to the report is a sketch of the layout of the tank training field at Biedrusko and a sketch of the layout of the officers' school.

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Officers' School for the Armored and Mechanized Forces

1. The Officers' School for the Armored and Mechanized Forces (Oficerska Szkola Wojsk Pancernych i Zmechanizowanych) is situated on Wojska Polskiego Street, Poznan-Golencin. The school is accessible by taking a No. 9 streetcar to its terminus.
2. In 1956 personnel at the school totaled approximately 2,500 men in the following categories:¹
 - a. Of an estimated 1,000 men who were first-year recruits, 80 percent attended a course for noncommissioned tank officers. (kurs podoficerski), while the remainder were used as service personnel.

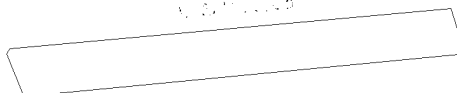
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- b. About 200 men in the senior age group, who had also been conscripted, formed the crews of the tanks used by the school.
 - c. About 800 students of the three-year tank officers' course, organized in three battalions, who were on regular army service.
 - d. The teaching staff, which was also composed of regular army personnel.
 - e. About 300 officers, all of whom were professional men without previous compulsory service, who were on three-month courses of combat and technical reserve training.
 - f. An unspecified number of civilian employees, who were clerks and cooks.
3. The following details concerning the T/O of the school command are reported:
- a. Commanding officer of the school - colonel.
 - b. Chief of staff (szef sztab) - major.
 - c. Deputy in charge of political affairs (zca. spraw politycznych) - major.
 - d. Deputy for technical matters (zca. spraw technicznych) - major.
 - e. Deputy for physical training (zca. wyszkolenia fizycznego) - major.

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- f. Director of training (dyrektor nauk) - colonel.
 - g. Commanders of three training battalions (dowodca bataljono naukowego) - majors.
 - h. Officer in charge of the tank battalion (dowodca bataljono czołgow) - major.
 - i. Quartermaster branch officer (kwatermistrz) - captain.
 - j. Officer in charge of the vehicle repair company (dowodca kompanji remontowej) - captain.
4. The main equipment of the school consisted of 60 armored vehicles, including 40 T-34 tanks, 10 IS (sic, JS) tanks and 10 85 mm., 100 mm., and 152 mm. self-propelled guns.
5. The following were the main subjects of the political course for armored corps sergeants:
- a. The establishment of the Polish Army in the Second World War and its campaign from Lenino to Berlin.
 - b. Partisan forces during World War II.
 - c. Topical subjects in politics,
 - d. Geography of Poland.
 - e. Geographic position and features of Communist countries and global geography.
 - f. The ideological basis of the Polish Army and the ideological aspects of military organization.

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- g. Political economy.
 - h. Dialectical materialism.
6. In 1956 four hours a week were devoted to political subjects in the noncommissioned officers' course. Students who passed the political examination were given preference even if they failed in other subjects. Moreover, soldiers who belonged neither to the Party nor to the Union of Polish Youth (ZMP) were regarded as inferior even if they distinguished themselves in their studies. During Party meetings they were assigned fatigue duty.
7. A GZI captain attached to the school, although not subordinate to its commander, was responsible for the security surveillance of the students. He presumably recruited a number of informants whose identity remained concealed from most of the students and staff.
8. In late 1956 a T-54 tank was demonstrated to the officers at the school. It had the following special features:
- a. There was no interior electric lighting, and illumination was wholly by phosphorus (sic, the reference is probably to luminous gauge dials.)
 - b. the guns of the T-54 had special aiming devices for night firing.
 - c. The driver could elevate his seat so that half of his body was outside the hull of the tank.

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9. The following members of the staff of the school for officers of the armored and mechanized forces in Poznan are known:

a. Colonel Filipowicz (fm) had been the commanding officer of the school since 1955.

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b. Major Golon (fm) had been chief of staff at the school for a number of years.

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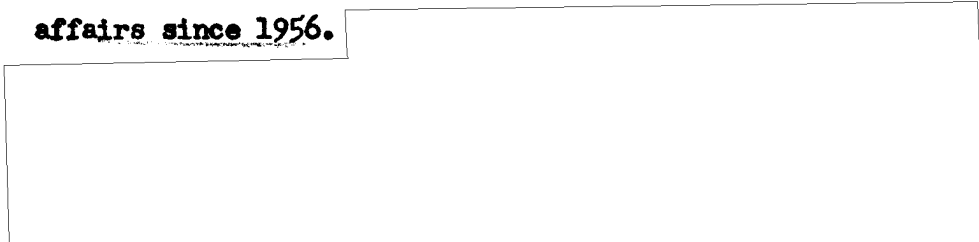
c. Captain Laban (fm), [redacted] had been the ordnance officer for many years.

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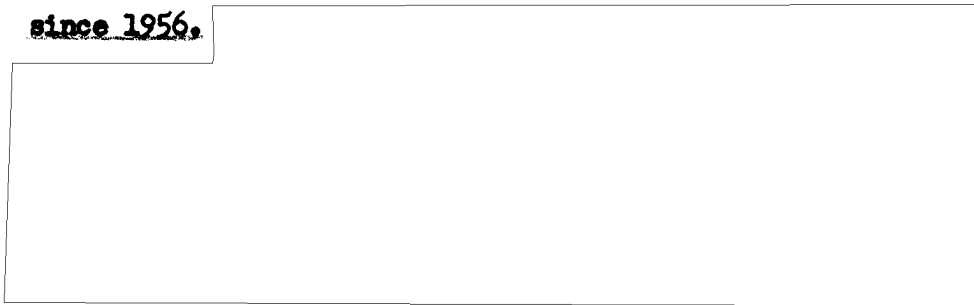
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- d. Major Lauk (fnu) had been the deputy commander for political affairs since 1956.



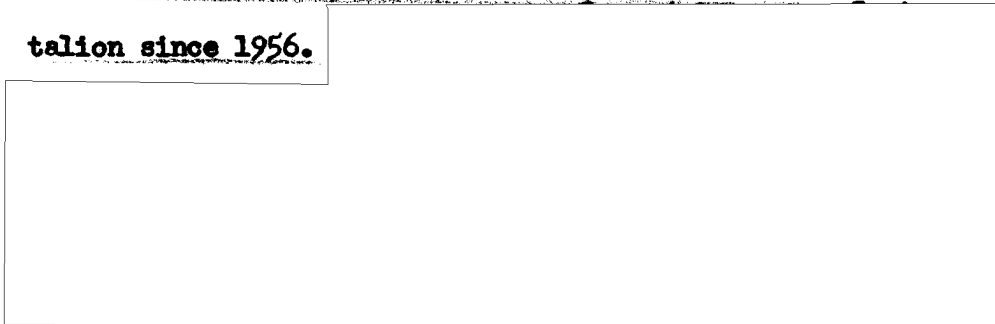
- e. Lt. Colonel Siekulecki (fnu) had been the director of training since 1956.



- f. Major Trzeciak (fnu) had been the head of the technical section, as well as the senior instructor, for many years.



- g. Major Zasina (fnu), formerly an instructor in armor tactics at the school, had been the commander of its armored battalion since 1956.



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- h. Captain Zawadzki (fnu) had been the quartermaster branch officer for the school for a number of years.

Miscellaneous Military Information

10. Tank ammunition was stored in the Cytadela Fortress, which was located two and one-half or three kilometers from the aforementioned school.²
11. A school for quartermaster branch officers was situated on the northern side of Grunewaldzka Street, Poznan. Its entrance was from another street. Its compound was about 200 meters long, and comprised several four-story buildings. There were military police barracks, which had been formerly occupied by KBW (Internal Security Troops) units, opposite the school.
12. The Poznan garrison command was situated on a street which branched off to the north of Fredy Street. It occupied several three-story buildings, one of which was a prison.
13. Antiaircraft artillery units were billeted in barracks in Poznan.
14. A technical school for officers of the armored corps was located in Gizycko.
15. A military supply depot was on Poznanska Street, Wroclaw (Breslau), where it occupied a site measuring 300 x 250 meters, next to a civilian technical school.

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16. A school for engineer officers was situated about one kilometer north of the Trzebnicka Street bridge in Wroclaw. There were extensive barracks on the site, where an armored unit was stationed.
17. The Wroclaw garrison command was located on the former Angerstrasse, at the corner of the former Taentzienstrasse.
18. The voivodship police and UB (Security Police) headquarters were housed in a series of buildings on Muzealna Street, Wroclaw.
19. An aircraft engine factory was located 10 to 15 kilometers northwest of Lesnica (not further identified) where it occupied the site of a similar, prewar plant. There was a large airfield where jet planes were observed near the factory.
20. A large explosives factory was situated in Bydgoszcz. In 1956 an explosion in the factory took the lives of 100 persons.
21. General Suchow (fnu), [redacted] was the commander of armored troops in the Wroclaw area.
- [redacted]

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22. Attached [redacted] are sketches, with legends, of the layout of the officers school for armored and mechanized forces in Poznan (A), and the tank training field in Biedrusko (B) [redacted]
- [redacted]

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Comments:

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1. During 1957 the number of students in the school, especially in the tank officers' course, was reduced.
2. On two successive nights in 1955 attackers opened fire upon the Cytadela guard. The assaulters were never identified, although reinforcements were called in from the nearby school. Consequently a path which connected the fortress with other fortifications was closed.

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Legend to Sketch A - Layout of the Officers' School of Armored and Mechanized Forces in Poznan.

1. Main entrance, with two-winged iron gate.
2. Headquarters, a four-story building about 30 meters long, which contained the following:
 - a. Basement: guard room and detention cells.
 - b. First floor: school administration offices.
 - c. Second floor: offices of the commander, staff officers, and school headquarters.
 - d. Third floor: communication offices and telephone exchange of the school.
 - e. Fourth floor: storerooms for office equipment.
3. Officers' club, a one-story building about 25 meters long, with a concert room and billiard room on the first floor and a library and reading room on the second.
4. Guest house for visiting senior officers. It was a two-story building with 12 rooms.
5. A two-story building about 25 meters long which housed the officers mess and an area used by the school orchestra.
6. A three-story building, about 60 meters long, which accommodated the following:
 - a. First floor: tank sergeants' quarters.
 - b. Second floor: tank mechanics and drivers quarters.
 - c. Third floor: quarters for tank battalion soldiers.
7. Athletic field.
8. A one-story building, 300 meters long, which housed: the fire fighting station, showers, laundry, gymnasium, students' dining hall, dining hall for the teaching staff, and a storeroom for tank parts.

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9. Building . . 300 meters long containing: stables, storerooms for furniture and utensils, and another for oil, gas and coal.
10. Firing range for small arms with moving targets, with safety wall five meters high.
11. A three-story building, about 25 meters long, containing 12 rooms serving as living quarters for enlisted men of the staff.
12. A three-story building with 12 rooms used for political lectures.
13. Underground bunkers (dotted line indicates interconnecting passage way), which were covered by a small needlewood grove.
14. Room of the guard officer and leave pass office, a two-story building.
15. A two-story building, about 40 meters long, containing a secret library, lecture hall for officers and map room on the first floor, and the training department of the school on the second floor.
16. A three-story building, about 40 meters long, for lecture rooms of the technical departments.
17. A three-story building, about 60 meters in length, which housed the following:
 - a. First floor: lecture rooms for weapon training.
 - b. Second floor: lecture rooms for elementary topography and chemical warfare instruction.
 - c. Third floor: lecture rooms for communication training.
18. A two-story building, about 25 meters long, with the office of the duty officer in charge of tank maintenance and stores.
19. Underground fuel stores.
20. Two gas stations, one for tanks and the second for other vehicles.
21. Garage, 60 meters long, one-half for tanks and the other for automobiles.

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22. Open shed where 12 automobiles were parked (28 vehicles were parked outside).
23. Open shed with eight or ten gates, with a capacity for 30 tanks.
24. Open shed for 12 to 15 heavy tanks and self-propelled guns, with six gates. There was an empty lot where tanks were parked in the open adjacent to the shed.
25. A three-story building, about 60 meters long serving as sergeants' quarters.
26. A three-story hut, serving as TWT lecture room.
27. A two-story building, about 20 meters long, which served as school hospital.
28. A two-story building, about 5 meters long, a retail shop and barber shop for the soldiers.
29. Wooden vehicle shed, about 40 meters long.
30. School workshops. (carpenter's blacksmith's and electricians).
31. Three-story buildings, about 30 meters long, quarters for married officers.
32. Hog pen.
33. Kitchen garden of the school.
34. Boiler plant for the whole school, a building about 5 meters long.
35. Watch tower with telephone.
36. Medical unit, which did not belong to the school establishment, and medical suppliers' stores.
37. Stores for the police and UB.
38. Railroad loading ramp for tanks.
39. Closed site with an embankment three meters high, flanked by two watch towers with search lights, which did not belong to the school; function unknown.

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- 40. Large concrete garage, 70 meters long, where 40 to 50 ambulances are parked.
- 41. Two-story building of the garrison guard platoon. [Its personnel were exchanged at intervals, and came from various units in the area.]
- 42. The Cytadela Fortress, which was surrounded by a high rampart and a 3-meter ditch with railings on each side.
 - A. Sentry box.
 - B. Underground billets.
 - C. Store for empty ammunition boxes.
 - D. Store for artillery and small arms ammunition, 15 x 20 x 3½ meters in dimension.
 - E. Explosives store.
 - F. Path leading to other fortifications, which was blocked beyond the Cytadela. The area still contained World War II mines in 1956.
- 43. Underground ammunition depot of the KBW.
- 44. Military airfield:
 - A. Administration and billets' area of air force units.
 - B. Airfield with two or more runways. In 1956 about 10 FRESCO/MIG-17 aircraft were parked there in the open.
 - C. Hangars.
- 45. Training ground for tank driving, about four kilometers in the direction of the arrow.
- 46. Service building of the above.
- 47. Parade ground.
- 48. Lake Rusalka.

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● Day and night watch. The guard stands in a sentry box.

● Night guard only.

__._._._._ Prowler's beat (from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.)

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Legend to Sketch B - Tank Training Area at Biedrusko.

1. Bolechowo railroad station, where tanks used at the training area were unloaded and loaded.
2. Concrete bridge, about 40 meters long, which was guarded by troops. There was a military roadblock on the side facing the training area.
3. Summer camp of Armored Brigade No. 16, which was closed in winter and guarded by 10 to 12 soldiers.
4. Wooded area with garages and sheds for tanks and automobiles.
- X This area contained quarters for married military personnel.
5. Garrison officers' club, where a general lived in the summer.
6. Permanent garrison headquarters.
7. Military offices (no details).
8. Garages for "katyushas", where about 20 RLS [rocket launchers] were observed. The area was also used for training with this weapon.
9. Wooded area with bunkers under military guard. Around the bunkers there was a tank driving training area and an obstacle course.
10. Check post on the road to the entrance of the training area (poligon).
11. Parking area for 60 to 70 IS (sic, JS) tanks and self-propelled guns, in addition to eight to ten recoilless (?) antiaircraft guns. This equipment, which was kept greased and covered with tarpaulins, belonged to the Sixth Heavy Armored and Antitank Brigade.
12. Summer camp for the Officers' School of Armored and Mechanized Forces in Poznan.
13. Training area of the Armored Corps Officers' School in Poznan:
 - A. Sheds for tanks.
 - B. Sheds for vehicles.

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- C. Tank repair point.
 - D. Fuel depot.
 - E. Check post where tanks were examined for serviceability prior to leaving for the training area.
- 14. Tank firing range. At the point marked with a dotted line (----) tanks forded the river.
 - 15. Garage for tanks of an unknown brigade.
 - 16. Summer camp of an armored brigade from Opole (Oppeln).
 - 17. Summer camp of an engineers' brigade from Klocko.
 - 18. (Unlocated on sketch) Approximate site of the large firing range belonging to the training area where katyushas and other weapons were also tested.
 - 19. Repair shops for heavy and small arms.
 - 20. Garrison laundry and bathhouse.

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